

THE COWBOYS READY

THE PRESIDENT WILL REMEMBER THEM IF THEY ARE NEEDED.

JUDGE TORREY HAS A NOVEL SCHEME

To Utilize These Denizens of the Plains—Governor of Wyoming Approves the Idea—Something About Their Modus Operandi.

(Written by Judge Jay L. Torrey.)

At the beginning of the last war the Zouave regiments, which were first organized, were received with great popular enthusiasm and did much to arouse the martial spirit. Now, that war with Spain seems imminent, the military enthusiasm seems likely to be aroused for quite a different kind of organization, and yet one which bids fair to be equally picturesque. I refer to my voluntary offer to organize a regiment of cowboys for service against the Spaniards. I was presented by Senator Warren, of Wyoming, the other day, to the President, and asked authority to immediately organize twelve troops of cowboys, urging their known loyalty and admitted bravery as a reason why they should be called into service, and referred to them as hardy men, perfect horsemen, and able to cope with all difficulties and competent to provide for themselves under all circumstances. The President expressed his thanks, and without making any promises, assured both Senator Warren and myself that in any case of necessity, the cowboys should be remembered.

We also called upon General Nelson A. Miles, commanding the army, and canvassed the situation and considered at length the subject of the organization of the cowboy rangers. Upon the subject, General Miles said: "The services of such a regiment would prove invaluable to the government. The cowboys are able, in a pre-eminence, to take the place of the regular army. They are always at home and know where they are; even a blizzard is unavailing to lose one of them. They are the best horsemen in the world and do not know what fear is."

THE GOVERNOR APPROVES.

In reply to the inquiry as to what might be a preliminary step to take toward organizing such a regiment, he said: "Pick out your subordinate officers and find out where your men are in the event they are required."

I telegraphed Governor Richards, of Wyoming, asking if he would approve the organization of a regiment of cowboy rangers, and the Governor answered that he would.

It is not proposed, by the organization of the new regiments to interfere in any way with the existing military for actual service in the event of war, but to simply organize the additional regiment so that there may be a distinct cowboy organization for mounted service in case of need. It is desired that special legislation be passed to provide for the desired regiment. I have no doubt it will be passed with the same unanimity as the appropriation for \$500,000.

As to the practical details of the legislation, I will, no doubt, provide for the election of the troop officers by the men. They are all men of independent characters, and would not consent to be commanded by officers who were not chosen by the men. The field officers should be chosen by the troop officers. In this way every officer would be the choice of the men, and in consequence, would be much nearer to them than they would be if appointed.

A "newspaper cowboy" is quite different from the real article. When a rowdy puts on spurs and acts in a disgraceful way, he is sometimes improperly heralded in the newspapers as a "cowboy." In this way a real impression is given out of the true character of the genuine cowboy. As a class, they are fearless, adventurous, absolutely truthful, and always reliable. I never have known a class of men who can be so easily misled. When it is time to have fun they have it; but when the time for business arrives they attend to it thoroughly and well.

A DISTINCT UNIFORM.

Concerning the uniforms and equipments of the men, the plan is to have a distinct uniform, which will be both serviceable and ornamental and characteristic of the cowboy. In my judgment, their equipment, that is, saddles, bridles, etc., are the best that the world has ever seen, and I have no doubt that they will be preserved and retain them. As to arms, a small endeavor to avoid everything that is useless, except for ornament, including sabres, and have the men furnished, if possible, each with a couple of six-shooters and a long-barreled rifle. In this way they can guide their horses with their knees and handle a six-shooter in each hand. In this way they would be more effective than if they were required to use a sabre.

As to the time needed to get organized, I have already communicated with good, true men in all parts of Wyoming, and they are busy, in a quiet way, getting the names of the boys and making ready so as to respond immediately, if occasion shall require.

Regarding the horses likely to be used, they would, of course, be native Wyoming horses. Our boys would not ride plough-horses. We have, I believe, the best horses on earth. Last year deputy sheriffs secured an outfit of our boys with him as a posse; they rode grass-fed, bare-footed horses, and covered thirty miles in 1 hour and 59 minutes. The outfit was a fine one. They have all had experience on horseback, and the last, most of them have had experience in charging and retreating under difficult circumstances, and know all about Indian fighting. If the method of warfare of the Spaniards is not the same as that of the Indians, the capabilities they would be able to secure a liberal education by facing our boys.

Naval Enlistment Slow.

(Springfield Union.)

The Navy Department is having great difficulty in enlisting suitable men for its war vessels. This is not because seamen are lacking in courage or patriotism, but rather because the navy is not particularly attractive, and the number of trained sailors is small. For about a fortnight, the navy has been endeavoring to enlist seamen, but the number procured is not so near so great as naval officers had anticipated. The pay of the seamen is not high, but it is regarded as satisfactory; the real trouble is the fact that a sailor cannot advance above a petty officer. This has been a drawback to the naval service for years, and was largely responsible for the great number of unnatural deaths in the navy. Unless they have an opportunity to advance themselves, in wartime, patriotism will furnish a plentiful supply of men, and it is probable that the navy will be able to get on in times of peace, unless they have an opportunity to advance themselves. A naval recruit cannot learn his duties in as short a time as he might in the army. The navy is now the vessels are filled with complicated machinery and guns, and a high grade of intelligence is required to work them. The navy is really needed on the warships nowadays, but such men will find little inducement to enlist until they know that they can rise above seamen or petty officers. Until the service is made more attractive and offers more inducements, it will lack in the best character of seamen. The Philadelphia Press says, the navy must "open the way for promotion." Prejudice against men who are not graduates at Annapolis must not be permitted to interfere with the good of the service.

To Cure a Cold in One Day.

Take Laxative Bromo Quinine Tablets. All druggists refund the money if it fails to cure. 25c. The genuine has L. B. & Co. on each tablet.

THE WORLD AWAKES

DAME NATURE IS GLORIOUS IN VIRGINIA'S WONDROUS WOODLANDS.

THE APTON LADY'S PRETTY THOUGHTS

Her Pen Sketches the Beauties of Our Forest and Breathes Out a Sylvan Fragrance—Echoes from the Nelson Hills.

AFTON, VA., April 2.—(Special.)—It has come again—the leafy month—the month of April; April with her cheery smiles, her sudden tears, her peeps of green everywhere, her signs of growth on bush and bank and tree.

Suddenly, without warning, there is in the air, in the earth, and in the feeling of men, an indescribable quickening. The pulses of nature begin to move. In the old way, made new, the patience at the heart of things is working out once more the old miracle of the awakening world. Nothing is ever forgotten; no atom of matter lost; no death—in an indefinite way there is only a passing on to meet another stage of development. Only those who live in the country can really know what this month of April means; what it is to watch for the early wild flowers; to catch the first shy notes of a venturesome bird; to hear the trickling of water broken from its icy bounds back in the hills, and coming down now with a laugh and a song; beyond and above all, to wander forth among the thousand sounds of the universe of the woods and forget for the time that conventionalities ever hedged us about. Just one hour of walking through these breezy arcades, where the very trees seem to have a distinct vitality as they throw off their burden of winter, and the forest foliage here and there, brings a sense of life and warmth, a glow of renewal and happiness that make it enough to live.

THESE WONDROUS WOODS.

These wonderful woods of oak and beech and crimson, budding maple, with the yellow light coming down in sunny spots, are like the forests of a fairy tale in childhood fairy tales. Through such woods Red Ridinghood had gone unconscious to her doom. Through such a forest Patina's brothers had ridden to the rescue of Bluebeard's last victim. In just such woods Beauty had been rescued from the clutches of the enchanted Beast; under such spreading trees she bent over the dying monster, breathing soft words of pity into his ear, and had seen him restored to the grace and glory of manhood—the perfect prince of Fairyland!

Ah, well, the thrill of a spring day beneath the opening leaves brings strange day dreams, and not more marvelous were our fairy tales than this swift transformation of wintry twigs and branches from bare brownness to all the variegated greens that range between a tender lettuce leaf and the sombre tinge of the ivy leaf in shadow.

"PLANT A TREE."

I saw, not long since, a newspaper contention as to the authorship of a poem entitled, "Plant a Tree," which was attributed to ex-Secretary Morton. It was really written by Lucy Larcom, and is one of the few poems—leaving plagiarists aside—which is quite worthy of imitation.

"He who plants a tree,
He plants youth;
Vine won for centuries, in sooth;
Life of time, that hints eternity!
Boughs their strength unpear,
New shoots, every year,
On old growths appear.
Thou shalt teach the ages, sturdy tree,
Youth of soul is immortality!"

For in all the vegetable kingdom there is nothing of such wondrous beauty as a tree, nor of such absorbing interest, from the first great pine and tree-ferns of the fossil age, which Nature's changeless forces have since made into coal for us, to the giant oaks of the Blue Ridge forests. In Saxon mythology the names of mystic trees are legion, and their tall, straight trunks are just as numerous. First among these is the oak, which is the embodiment of Thor's sacred tree. You should never mutilate an oak in the slightest degree if you wish the favor of the gods. The old Norse sagas prohibited by law the cutting down of any trees of oak or hazel, the latter being also a lightning, or fire-tree, and dear to Thor. There is still a trace in England of the old custom of the worship of the oaks on the boundaries of lands, this act being sure to gain his protection.

By whatever name they make invoke him, red is a color sacred to the oak. For this reason the mountain ash, with its scarlet berries, is deeply venerated in the wood-lore of the forests. In Germany people put twigs of ash about stables to keep the witches from knotting the horses' tails—a superstition which was well-known among the southern slaves, and may have been of this origin. Serpents are in deadly fear of an ash-tree, since most of them are possessed by devils, and the enemy Scot, who, like his famous Tam, "knew what's what for bravely," uses ash sap for their bane.

MYSTIC VIRTUE OF THE ELDER.

The elder tree is also of mystic virtue, and is sacred to the fairies. The elderberries, gathered at midnight of mid-summer eve and worn over the heart, will draw to you only good fairies in luck and love, and certainly at one hour the inconvenience of doubling on a rabbit's foot across a lonely graveyard. Perhaps the most interesting fact in the history of the elder is that it was under a hazel-tree that the holy family took refuge from a storm while on their flight to Egypt. Just how one cannot see, but in this consecration the marvels of the hazel are countless. The divining rod to

indicate where springs of water or precious metals are concealed must be of hazel; to be efficacious, it is best cut upon Good Friday. The hazel is conducive to faithfulness. In some counties the leader of a marriage procession waves a hazel rod as he walks along. He must not, however, touch it to his lips, as he will become invisible, and the bride and groom would have their first dispute as to who should take his place.

Probably from some of these ancient oracles come the old-time negro belief that to insure a good corn crop one should plant a hazel-nut in the first and last rows.

CURIOUS THINGS IN FORESTS.

Many curious things may be seen in the forests by any one who will keep his eyes wide open. Some seasons ago a party of us were having a picnic in the woods, when a young man, who was stretched lazily by a fallen log, chanced to pull out from under it a piece of a dead branch of a pine tree. It was a stick about five feet long, from which some one began to tear away the half-decayed bark, and we made a singular discovery in wood-lore. Our find was a piece of natural carved wood, most curiously inscribed with delicate tracings—carved as if by hand, and looking as if it had been directly imported from the workshop of some South Sea Islander. The carving was the work of a strange little insect, who, for aught, I know, may have some high sounding name in entomology. What puzzled me was the intricate regularity of the carved design. He evidently did not work according to any set design or pattern, because he made it as he went, but the waves and scrolls of this unskilled workman were exquisitely done, the finer lines kept closely and evenly to the mathematical precision, though no two parts of the stick were alike. We divided our treasure and had our carved pieces made into lovely paper knives, match-boxes, and brace-brac. For a long time I thought our natural carved wood a great rarity, but specimens may be gathered almost anywhere in the pine forest. Nature is fond of trapping and keeping of observation. All the kinds of pine trees, spruce, hemlock, tamarack, fir, yellow pine, white pine, and all other kinds of pine afford varying degrees of attraction to this curious little insect with many legs and sharp claws. The mathematical precision, though no two parts of the stick were alike. We divided our treasure and had our carved pieces made into lovely paper knives, match-boxes, and brace-brac. 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